



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30307-1498

404-865-7100

For Immediate Release

Date: August 13, 2004

Contact: Tony Clark, 404-865-7109

Tony.Clark@nara.gov

Release: NEWS04-08

9/11 Commissioner Issues Call for Action at Carter Presidential Library

Timothy Roemer Says Public Needs to Move from Passive Support to Fury

ATLANTA, GA- The Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum hosted a public meeting with 9/11 Commissioner Timothy Roemer, Tuesday, August 10, 2004. Roemer and other 9/11 Commission members are taking part in a nationwide campaign to create public support for the commission's recommendations.

"We hope the American people will help now deliver the recommendations to the White House, to Congress, to candidates for Congress and to Senator John Kerry and President Bush," Roemer told the audience of about 100 gathered at the Carter Presidential Center.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (known as the 9/11 Commission) issued its report on July 22nd after a twenty month-long investigation. The panel found "across the government, there were failures of imagination, policy, capabilities, and management."

The Commission determined that U.S. leaders did not understand "the gravity of the threat" from Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, adding, "Terrorism was not the overriding national security concern for the U.S. government under either the Clinton or the pre-9/11 Bush administration." The investigation found "missed opportunities to thwart the 9/11 plot."

The panel stated, "we believe we are safer today. But we are not safe." The 587 page report calls for a strategy to "attack terrorists and their organizations", "prevent the continued growth of Islamist terrorism", and "protect against and prepare for terrorist attacks."

The Commission issued 37 recommendations. Among the recommendations are (1) link intelligence and operational planning in a new National Counterterrorism Center; (2) create national intelligence centers and an office of National Intelligence Director; (3) encourage information sharing throughout government through decentralized networks; (4) centralize and strengthen Congressional oversight of intelligence and homeland security issues; and (5) strengthen the national security workforce within the FBI and clarify the missions of the departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

"We need the American people roaring," Roemer said. "We need them mad; we need to see their fury and their involvement in their political system." He urged the audience to write their representatives in Washington, attend town meetings and speak out on what should be done to deal with terrorism.